

84TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 34

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1955

Mr. COLMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## A BILL

To amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 to provide for more effective evaluation of the fiscal requirements of the executive agencies of the Government of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That section 138 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of  
4 1946, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 "JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

6 "SEC. 138. (a) There is hereby created a joint service  
7 committee to be known as the Joint Committee on the  
8 Budget (hereinafter in this section called the 'joint commit-  
9 tee') and to be composed of sixteen members as follows:

10 "(1) Seven Members who are members of the Com-

1 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate, four from the ma-  
2 jority party and three from the minority party, to be chosen  
3 by such committee; and

4 “(2) Nine Members who are members of the Com-  
5 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives,  
6 five from the majority party and four from the minority  
7 party, to be chosen by such committee.

8 “(b) No person shall continue to serve as a member  
9 of the joint committee after he has ceased to be a member  
10 of the committee from which he was chosen, except that  
11 the members chosen by the Committee on Appropriations  
12 of the House of Representatives who have been reelected to  
13 the House of Representatives may continue to serve as  
14 members of the joint committee notwithstanding the expira-  
15 tion of the Congress. A vacancy in the joint committee  
16 shall not affect the power of the remaining members to  
17 execute the functions of the joint committee, and shall be  
18 filled in the same manner as the original selection, except  
19 that (1) in case of a vacancy during an adjournment or  
20 recess of Congress for a period of more than two weeks, the  
21 members of the joint committee who are members of the  
22 committee entitled to fill such vacancy may designate a  
23 member of such committee to serve until his successor is  
24 chosen by such committee, and (2) in the case of a vacancy  
25 after the expiration of a Congress which would be filled

1 from the Committee on Appropriations of the House of  
2 Representatives, the members of such committee who are  
3 continuing to serve as members of the joint committee, may  
4 designate a person who, immediately prior to such expira-  
5 tion, was a member of such committee and who is reelected  
6 to the House of Representatives, to serve until his successor  
7 is chosen by such committee.

8 “(c) The Committees on Appropriations of the House  
9 of Representatives and of the Senate shall, promptly upon  
10 their organization at the first session of each Congress, choose  
11 their representatives on the Joint Committee on the Budget  
12 created by section 138 (a). The chairmen of the respective  
13 Committees on Appropriations shall then promptly convene  
14 the Joint Committee on the Budget and that committee shall  
15 elect a chairman and vice chairman from among its members:  
16 *Provided, however,* That the terms of service of said chair-  
17 man and vice chairman shall be for the life of the Congress  
18 in which they are elected; that the chairman shall be selected  
19 from among its members who are Members of the House of  
20 Representatives, and that the vice chairman shall be selected  
21 from among its members who are Members of the Senate.  
22 “(d) A majority of the Members of each House who  
23 are members of the joint committee shall together constitute  
24 a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number,  
25 as determined by the joint committee, may constitute a sub-

1 committee and be authorized to conduct hearings and make  
2 investigations. Any member of a subcommittee so designated  
3 shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of any hearing or  
4 investigation, but the concurrence of a majority of the mem-  
5 bers of such subcommittee shall be necessary before any  
6 report or findings may be submitted to the joint committee.

7 “(e) It shall be the duty of the joint committee—

8 “(1) (A) to inform itself on all matters relating  
9 to the annual budget of the agencies of the United States  
10 Government, including analytical, investigative, audit,  
11 and other reports on Federal operations prepared by the  
12 General Accounting Office pursuant to section 312 of the  
13 Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, the Government  
14 Corporation Control Act, and section 206 of the Legis-  
15 lative Reorganization Act of 1946, and other Federal  
16 agencies; (B) to provide the Committee on Appropria-  
17 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
18 on Appropriations of the Senate with such information  
19 on items contained in such budget, and the justifications  
20 submitted in support thereof, as may be necessary to  
21 enable said committees to give adequate consideration  
22 thereto; (C) to consider the President’s messages on the  
23 state of the Union and the Economic Report, to consider  
24 all information relating to estimated revenues, including  
25 revenue estimates of the Department of the Treasury

1 and the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation,  
2 to consider essential programs, and to consider changing  
3 economic conditions; and (D) to report to the Appro-  
4 priations Committees of the House of Representatives  
5 and the Senate its findings with respect to budget esti-  
6 mates and revisions in appropriations required to hold  
7 expenditures to the minimum consistent with the require-  
8 ments of Government operations and national security;

9 “(2) to recommend to the appropriate standing  
10 committees of the House of Representatives and the  
11 Senate such changes in existing laws as may effect  
12 greater efficiency and economy in government;

13 “(3) to make such reports and recommendations  
14 to any standing committee of either House of Congress  
15 or any subcommittee thereof on matters within the  
16 jurisdiction of such standing committee relating to devia-  
17 tions from basic legislative authorization, or to appro-  
18 priations approved by Congress which are not con-  
19 sistent with such basic legislative authorization, or to  
20 cut-backs in previously authorized programs which re-  
21 quire appropriations, as may be deemed necessary or  
22 advisable by the joint committee, or as may be requested  
23 by any standing committee of either House of Congress  
24 or by any subcommittee thereof.

1       “(f) The joint committee, or any subcommittee thereof,  
2 shall have power to hold hearings and to sit and act any-  
3 where within or without the District of Columbia whether  
4 the Congress is in session or has adjourned or is in recess;  
5 to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of wit-  
6 nesses and the production of books, papers, and documents;  
7 to administer oaths; to take testimony; to have printing and  
8 binding done; and to make such expenditures as it deems  
9 necessary to carry out its functions within the amount appro-  
10 priated therefor. Subpenas shall be issued under the signa-  
11 ture of the chairman or vice chairman of the committee and  
12 shall be served by any person designated by them. The pro-  
13 visions of sections 102 to 104, inclusive, of the Revised Stat-  
14 utes (U. S. C., title 2, secs. 192-194) shall apply in the case  
15 of any failure of any witness to comply with any subpoena or  
16 to testify when summoned under authority of this section.

17       “(g) The joint committee shall have a staff director, an  
18 associate staff director, who shall receive salaries of \$15,000  
19 and \$10,000 per annum, respectively, and such other profes-  
20 sional, technical, clerical, and other employees, temporary or  
21 permanent, as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the  
22 joint committee. Such employees shall be employed without  
23 regard to the civil-service laws, and their compensation shall  
24 be fixed without regard to the Classification Act of 1949, as  
25 amended. The staff director shall be appointed by the chair-

1 man of the joint committee, subject to the consent and ap-  
2 proval of said committee. He shall be responsible to the  
3 joint committee, through the chairman thereof. And he  
4 shall be subject to removal only by a majority vote of the  
5 joint committee. The associate staff director shall be ap-  
6 pointed by the vice chairman of the joint committee, subject  
7 to the consent and approval of said committee. He shall  
8 be responsible to the staff director, and shall be subject  
9 to removal only by a majority vote of the joint committee.  
10 All other employees of the committee shall be appointed  
11 for an indefinite period by the chairman with the advice of  
12 the staff director and the approval of the committee. No  
13 person shall be employed by the joint committee unless  
14 the members appointing him have favorably considered the  
15 data with respect to him submitted by the Federal Bureau  
16 of Investigation after a thorough investigation of his loyalty  
17 and security.

18       “(h) The joint committee shall assign one or more  
19 members of its staff to each of the Committees and Sub-  
20 committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House  
21 of Representatives for service during the periods when  
22 appropriation bills are pending. Staff members so assigned  
23 shall attend all pertinent hearings and executive sessions of  
24 said committees and subcommittees and shall be available  
25 for advice and consultation throughout such periods.

1       “(i) Professional and technical employees of the joint  
2 committee, upon the written authority of the chairman or  
3 vice chairman, shall have the right to examine the fiscal  
4 books, documents, papers, and reports of any agency of the  
5 United States Government within or without the District  
6 of Columbia, and data related to proposed appropriations  
7 incorporated in the annual budget transmitted by the  
8 President.

9       “(j) The annual budget of the United States shall  
10 henceforth include a special analysis of all active long-term  
11 construction and development programs and projects author-  
12 ized by the Congress, showing for each the total estimated  
13 cost, and the actual or estimated expenditures during prior  
14 fiscal years, the current fiscal year, the ensuing fiscal year,  
15 and subsequent fiscal years. All grant-in-aid programs shall  
16 be included in this analysis, in a separate grouping, showing  
17 under the heading “Subsequent Fiscal Years” for grants  
18 of indefinite duration the estimated annual cost for a ten-  
19 year period.

20       “(k) Qualified members of the staff of the Bureau of  
21 the Budget shall, at the request of the Committee on Ap-  
22 propriations of the House of Representatives or the Senate,  
23 or any subcommittee thereof, be assigned to attend executive  
24 sessions of the subcommittees of the Appropriations Com-



1 mittees and to explain the content and basis of proposed  
2 appropriations.

3 “(1) When used in this section, the term ‘agency’  
4 means any executive department, commission, council, inde-  
5 pendent establishment, Government corporation, board,  
6 bureau, division, service, office, officer, authority, administra-  
7 tion, or other establishment, in the executive branch of the  
8 Government. Such term includes the Comptroller General  
9 of the United States and the General Accounting Office, and  
10 includes any and all parts of the municipal government of  
11 the District of Columbia except the courts thereof.

12 “(m) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated  
13 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of  
14 this section. Appropriations for the expenses of the joint  
15 committee shall be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate  
16 upon vouchers signed by the chairman or vice chairman.”

17 SEC. 2. Effective at the beginning of the first regular  
18 session of the Eighty-third Congress, section 133 of the  
19 Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, is  
20 amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
21 subsection:

22 “(g) (1) All bills and joint resolutions authorizing ap-  
23 propriations reported from committees of the Senate or the  
24 House of Representatives shall be accompanied by reports

1 in writing, which shall be printed; and there shall be included  
2 in each such report or in an accompanying document an esti-  
3 mate from the department or other agency of the legislative,  
4 executive, or judicial branch of the Government primarily  
5 concerned of the probable cost of carrying out the legislation  
6 proposed in such bill or resolution over the first five-year  
7 period of its operation or over the period of its operation if  
8 such legislation will be effective for less than five years.

9 “(2) Estimates received from departments or agencies  
10 under this subsection may be submitted by the committees to  
11 the Bureau of the Budget for review, and such reviews, when  
12 practicable, shall be included in the reports or accompanying  
13 documents before said bills and joint resolutions are reported.

14 “(3) The Joint Committee on the Budget shall main-  
15 tain compilations of all such estimates, and semiannually  
16 shall print those compilations (together with any comment  
17 of the Bureau of the Budget) for the information of the  
18 Congress.”

19 SEC. 3. Section 139 of the Legislative Reorganization  
20 Act of 1946, as amended, is amended by adding at the end  
21 thereof the following new subsection:

22 “(e) The Joint Committee on the Budget is authorized  
23 to recommend that joint hearings be held by the Committees  
24 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the  
25 Senate, and of subcommittees thereof; but such joint hearings

1 shall not affect the power of the respective committee, and of  
2 subcommittees thereof, to conduct separate additional com-  
3 mittee hearings, and shall not affect the independence of com-  
4 mittee deliberations and decision. The chairman of each such  
5 joint hearing shall be the chairman of the Committee on  
6 Appropriations, or of the appropriate subcommittee thereof,  
7 of the House in which the bill is pending at the time of the  
8 hearing, and the vice chairman shall be the chairman of the  
9 Committee on Appropriations of the other House, or of the  
10 appropriate subcommittee thereof."

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